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ARGENTINA

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A leader of the leftist Montoneros has expressed considerable optimism for the future prospects of his organization, _______ The Montonero leader claims the recent economic uncertainty has provoked dissatisfaction that the group hopes to exploit. Recent wage increases agreed to by the government, however, may help to resolve labor discontent, and the organization may not be able to obtain the additional popular support it would like.

The alleged \$60 million paid the group for the release of the Born brothers, who were kidnaped last September by the terrorists, has undoubtedly enhanced the organization's prestige among the disgruntled populace. More important, however, the Montoneros now have funds with which to finance their terrorist operations.

The Montoneros probably will not provoke an open confrontation with the government until they believe they can do so effectively. Present indications are that the group will continue to organize its cadre covertly and work behind the political scene at all levels of government to achieve its desired goals.

The Montoneros reportedly believe that by the end of the year they will have as much popular support as the government. When this is achieved, they plan to conduct anti-government demonstrations and to gain more active support from the people, some of whom are already showing signs of disaffection for the present government.

The guerrilla organization is also beginning to discuss strategy for the 1977 presidential elections. It envisions using the Autentico Party, which is being organized nationally, as the Montoneros' political vehicle. The group's immediate goal may be to achieve a leftist coalition government. It is doubtful, however, that the military would allow such a coalition to make any real gains.

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Maj. Maimbourg, USA, DIA

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